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SOURCE az-Zaman.PALESTINIAN COMMUNIST PARTY HEADQUARTERS DISCOVERED IN GAZA

[Comment: On 29 November 1953, the independent Cairo daily newspaper az-Zaman published a dispatch from its correspondent, Ibrahim Tantawi, datelined Gaza, Egyptian-occupied Palestine, under the banner headline: "Biggest Communist Case in the Arab Countries Before Gaza Court." On 3 December 1952, az-Zaman also carried an interview by its correspondent, Tantawi with Fakhri Makki, arrested Communist leader. The following is a summary of the Communists' arrest and highlights of the interview.]

COMMUNIST PARTY'S BRANCHES REVEALED -- Cairo, az-Zaman, 29 Nov 52

Following the army coup, the new Egyptian government did not confine its activities to Egypt alone but also to the Gaza strip, where Egyptian officials and investigators probing Communism among Arab refugees were able to discover the Communist Party's nest.

One Egyptian investigator was able to join the Communist Party as a member and succeeded in laying his hand on all its secrets.

This campaign has led to the uncovering of the headquarters of the Communist Party in Gaza, which was found to be part of the biggest Communist net in the Arab countries and Israel. The officials were also able to discover all the party's branches in Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon; and finally, they arrested its leader, Fakhri Makki, who had been hiding in a dugout for 4 years. They also arrested 25 /Total later given as 45/ suspects, including eight members of the Executive Committee. They seized about 1,000 Communist documents, including written memoranda explaining the organization of the party, its contacts, branches, objectives, and activities; they also seized revolutionary pamphlets attacking Anglo-US imperialism, as well as certain statesmen in the Arab countries. Other documents seized were those interpreting Communist doctrines, purposes, developments, and goals. In the office of the party's leader, printing presses, as well as all media of propaganda, were seized.

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Studies of these documents and investigations revealed that the party's doctrines call for rallying under the banner of the movement of the Communist proletariat; for cooperation with the Israeli Communist Party, so that both the Arab and Jewish elements in Palestine would work side by side, while the party directs its efforts toward expelling all the forces which entered Palestine from Egypt, Jordan, and Syria; and for leaving Palestine to the [Palestinian] Arabs, Jews, and Communists.

The written documents further revealed that a Communist cell consists of four members; that in the Gaza strip there are eight cells, each of which is charged with a specific type of work, and that all are under the direction of Fakhri Makki, the leader of the party. Such specific activities include political, social, financial, refugee affairs, etc.

The Communist Party in Gaza went under the name of "The League for National Liberation," whose goal "is the triumph of the Communist revolution and the liberation of all [Palestinian] Arab areas from Jordanian, Egyptian, Syrian, and Israeli occupation forces and the unification of such areas into a single democratic state governed by the Arab-Israeli Communist Party. Also among our goals is the execution of the 1947 Partition Resolution and cooperation with the Israeli Communist Party, which is struggling with us in the cause of peace."

These goals were given in detail in a report written by Fakhri Makki, who sent copies of it to the party's office in 'Amman, to the Israeli Communist Party in Israel, and to some other Arab capitals.

It was also revealed that liaison between the party's headquarters in Gaza and the other branches was conducted through special messages carried by the members themselves -- to Jordan, by way of Hebron, and to the Communist parties in Israel, Syria, and Lebanon by members crossing into and through Israel.

To trick the police and prevent suspicion, an old woman delivered all incoming messages from abroad to Fakhri Makki in his secret dugout throughout the 4 years he spent in hiding. These messages were written in acid and by a process whereby they could be read only under gas light bulbs, thus escaping the attention of the military sensors.

Investigation of the case was completed after one month, and the number of relevant documents was over 10,000. The 45 arrested appeared on 26 November 1952 before the Gaza Military Tribunal which was formed for this purpose. Here the names of members of the tribunal, including Egyptian Army Officers, Palestinian Arab lawyers, etc., are given.

In the defendants box stood the eight cell leaders whose assumed names while conducting their activities were discovered by the police. These were Fakhri al-Shaykh Muhammad Makki, leader of the party, whose assumed names were Umar, Jabr, and Abbas; Abd-al-Majid Salim Kamil, whose assumed name was Bashir; Abd-al-Qadir Hajj Ahmad al-Maghribi, whose assumed name was Muta' al-Hasan Khayr-ed-Din Abu-Sha'ban, whose assumed name was Wakid; Fayiz Darwish al-Mahdi, whose assumed name was Jamil; Muhammad al-Hajj Ahmad al-Maghribi, whose assumed name was 'Iwan; Sa'id Sayyid al-Tihtawi, whose assumed name was Farid, and Abd-ar-Rahman Hasan Awad-Allah, whose assumed name was Buayd.

Among the 80 witnesses against the defendants were two brothers of Fakhri Makki.

The 45 accused Communists were charged with (a) forming, establishing, organizing, and administering an illegal society whose aim is to overthrow the existing political, social, and economic systems in the area under the control of Egyptian forces in Palestine, and (b) intentionally circulating false and

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malicious news, statements, and rumors, and intentionally conducting a campaign of agitation during a state of war to damage the country's defense efforts, to sow the seeds of fear and confusion among the people, and to weaken the nation's will to resist."

The tribunal listened to eight witnesses, including Fakhri Makki's two brothers. The court was then adjourned until 1 December 1952. This trial, which occupied public opinion throughout the Gaza area; is expected to last for more than 6 weeks. Thus, the Egyptian authorities in Gaza are working under the new era /in Egypt/ to crush the extremist Communist movements among the refugees who are being used by Communism to spread its doctrines throughout the Arab countries under the guise of supporting the miserable and the poor.

COMMUNIST LEADER INTERVIEWED -- Cairo, az-Zaman, 3 Dec 52

Ibrahim Tantawi, az-Zaman's correspondent, interviewed 25-year-old Fakhri Makki, head of the Palestinian Communist Party, in his prison cell in Gaza. Following are the highlights of the interview:

- Q. Are you a Communist?
- A. Yes.
- Q. What do you hope to accomplish by your activities?
- A. I wish to see a happy, free, and democratic Arab nation.
- Q. All Arab nations wish the same, but how is this related to Communism?
- A. I want a Socialist nation.
- Q. Do you mean like Britain?
- A. Britain is an imperialistic nation and its government is capitalistic and not socialist.
- Q. Do you have any contacts with Israel?
- A. No. My contacts are with the Palestinian Communist Party there and not with Ben Gurion's government, which fully cooperates with Anglo-US imperialism.
- Q. What do you think of the refugees' situation and their future?
- A. This tragedy was created by Anglo-US imperialism, which established Israel. The ultimate aim of imperialist scheme is to enslave the Arab states, subjugate them, and use them in fighting the USSR by way of the Joint Defense scheme. The British and the Americans are tyrants, whose imperialistic designs cannot be stopped, except by a successful Communist revolution all over the world.
- Q. Do you have any contacts with any Communist groups in the Arab states?
- A. Yes. I have been in contact with them throughout the 4 years I spent in my secret hiding place. They are just as active as I have been.
- Q. By what means do you contact them, and where are their headquarters?
- A. I cannot reveal such secrets.
- Q. Do you think all of your collaborators are now under arrest, since the number of those arrested is 45?

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A. No. There are many others.

Q. How do you explain the testimony against you in court by two of your brothers?

A. They did not testify against me, but for me, since they testified that I am a Communist, a fact which I acknowledge.

Q. Since you are so convinced of your mission, why did you spend 4 years in hiding?

A. Because the Egyptian authorities arrested some of my colleagues 4 years ago, and I thought the same might happen to me, which would have put a stop to party activities. So I went into hiding to avoid detection by the police.

Q. How many times did you leave your hiding place during this period?

A. I did not leave it.

Q. How did messages from the outside reach you?

A. That is a secret which I cannot reveal.

Q. What is your solution to the Palestinian problem?

A. Execution of the 1947 Partition Plan, so that Palestine can exist as a free, democratic nation.

Q. What was your reaction when you were arrested?

A. I knew that the influence of Anglo-US imperialism was still strong, and I shouted, Long Live Stalin and Down With Anglo-US imperialism.

Immediately after the interview, Makki was called again to appear before the military tribunal trying him.

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